

2.12 NBC Complex Upgrades

USAG-AK has proposed to upgrade an existing parking area and trail network at the NBC complex at Fort Wainwright. This project is located within the cantonment area and the total project area is approximately 2 acres (Figure 18). This area is currently only accessible to vehicles when frozen soil conditions are present. This project will harden the existing pad and trails and will improve access and control erosion by improving drainage through grading, establishing ditches, installing geotextile and fill material and confining activities to hardened surfaces. The purpose of the project is to enable Stryker vehicles to access the area year round for training. This project is located on map quadrangle FAI D1, T. 1 S., R. 1 E., Sections 8 and 9.

Survey and Inventory

In July 2005 the parking area, trail network, and area adjacent to the NBC complex was pedestrian surveyed by a crew of five archaeologists employed by the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML, Colorado State University).

Parallel pedestrian transects spaced at 20 meters or less were walked in all areas that were not deemed too wet or too steep ($>40^\circ$) to contain cultural material. Systematic sub-surface testing was undertaken in areas determined to be high probability (e.g., lake margins, ridges, benches adjacent to steeper slopes) during initial review of the proposed project area, and as determined by the supervising archaeologist and field crew leader based on survey findings. In addition to pedestrian transects, 40cm x 40cm shovel tests were excavated in the project area.

The majority of the project area was dry and consisted of predominantly birch forest, with spruce and alder scattered throughout. The eastern portion of the project area, however, was a very wet, stunted spruce, muskeg environment. Much of the surveyed area had been previously disturbed to various degrees. An area much larger than the area of potential effect for this project was surveyed to allow for possible modifications in project design. None of the shovel tests excavated contained any cultural material.

Cultural Resources

There are no known sites located within the area of potential effect for this project.

Results

No historic properties were identified through visual inspection or shovel testing within the project area. The majority of the project footprint has been previously disturbed and cleared. Additionally, all other known historic properties at Fort Wainwright are located outside of the project area.

There are no known historic properties located within the area of potential effect for this project. USAG-AK determined that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed upgrade and hardening project.

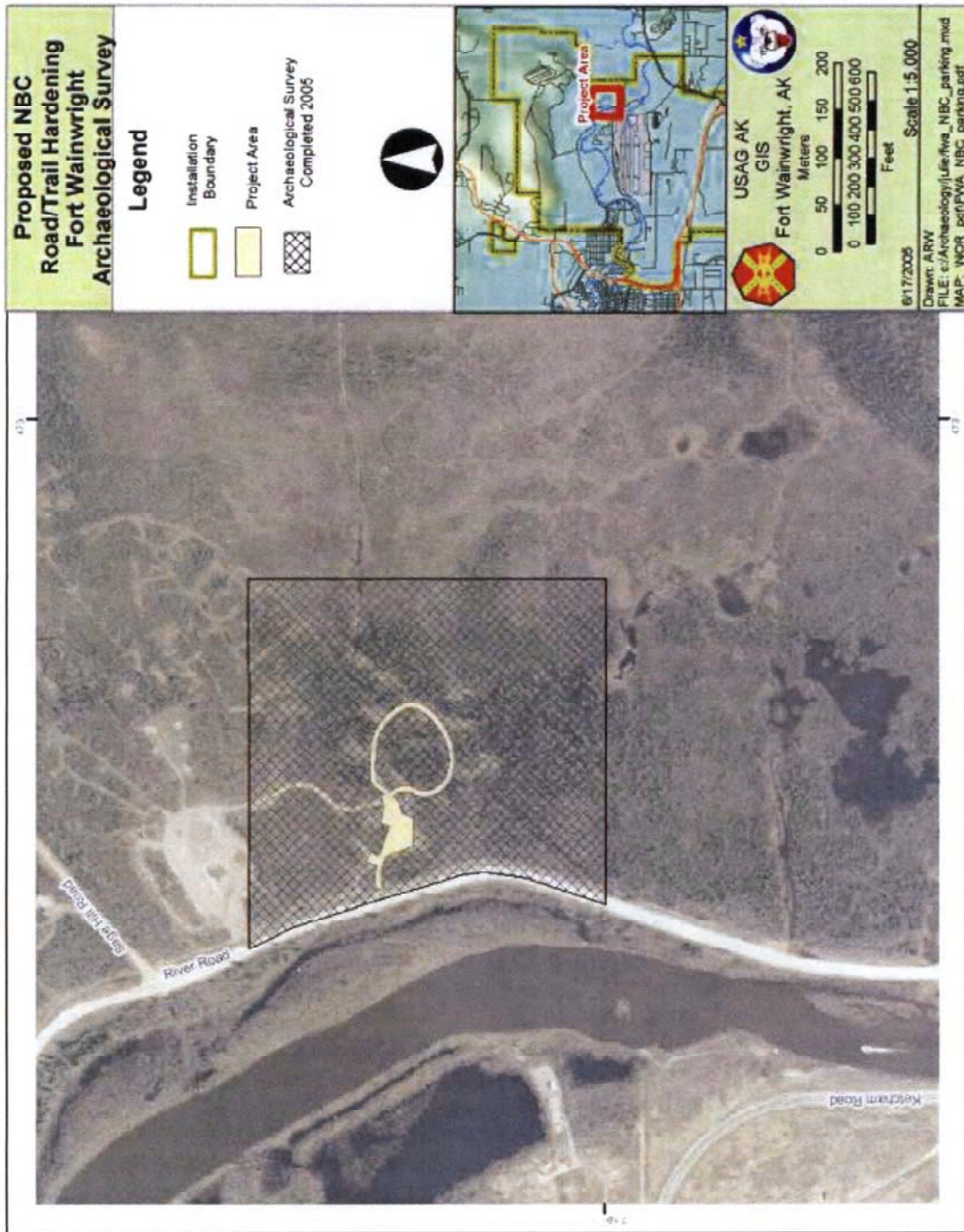


Figure 18. Area surveyed for NBC Complex upgrades